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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)PAGE 01 BOGOTA 09592 252340Z
ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	A-00	CA-01	CCO-00	CG-00	COME-00
	CTME-00	INL-00	DEAE-00	DINT-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	EB-00	EXIM-01	E-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VC-00
	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	IO-00	ITC-01
	L-00	M-00	AC-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	OCS-03	OIC-02
	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00
	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	T-00
	USIE-00	USSS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00

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P 250106Z OCT 01
 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4545
 INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 AMEMBASSY LIMA
 SECDEF WASHDC
 NSC WASHDC
 DOJ WASHDC
 DIRONDCP WASHDC
 USCINCSO MIAMI FL
 USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
 CIA WASHDC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 009592

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/24/11
 TAGS: ECON, ETRD, EAID, PREF, PREL, PGOV, PTER, SNAR, CO
 SUBJECT: NOTES FROM THE FIELD: ARAUCA (PART 2)

REFS: A) BOGOTA 09557; B) BOGOTA 08940; C) BOGOTA 09074;
 D) BOGOTA 09243; E) BOGOTA 06205; F) BOGOTA 07420

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR ANNE W. PATTERSON FOR REASONS
 1.5 (B) AND (D).

SUMMARY

 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: ALAN H FLANIGAN
 DATE/CASE ID: 22 FEB 2007 200503651

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1. (C) THIS CABLE IS THE SECOND OF A TWO-PART REPORT ON ARAUCA AND PROVIDES ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ARAUCA'S SECURITY, ECONOMY, POLITICS, AND CIVIL SOCIETY (FOR PART ONE, SEE REF A). VIOLENCE IS ESCALATING AS GUERRILLAS AND PARAMILITARIES WAGE BATTLE AND EXPAND TERROR CAMPAIGNS ON THE ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE, POPULACE, AND ROADS, IN ORDER TO SECURE STRATEGIC SUPPLY CORRIDORS, LAND, AND EXTORTED OIL ROYALTIES.

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END SUMMARY.

SECURITY: VIOLENCE AND INSTABILITY ON THE RISE

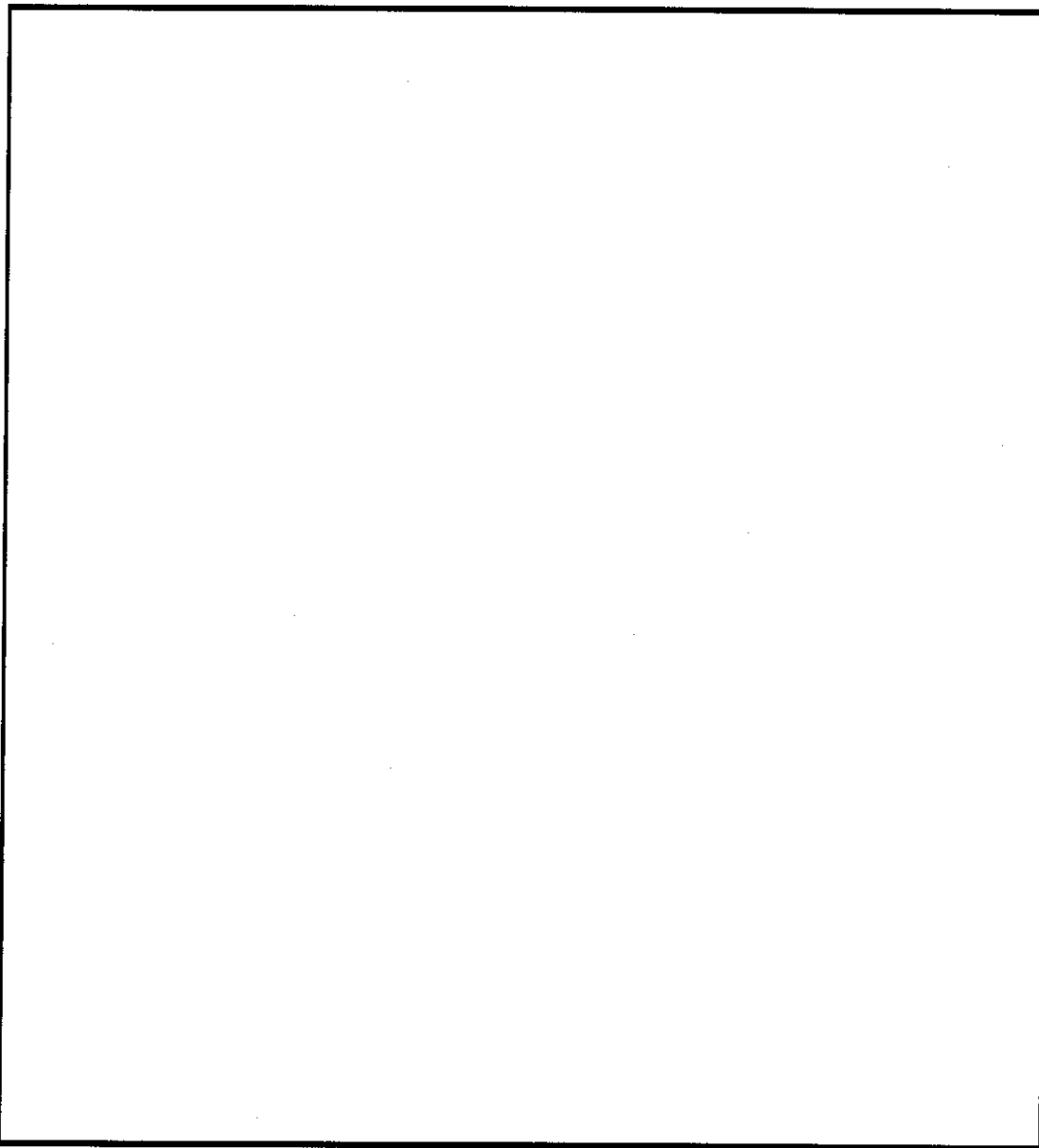
2. (C) ON OCTOBER 16-17, EMBOFFS VISITED ARAUCA, THE CAPITAL OF ARAUCA DEPARTMENT ON COLOMBIA'S NORTHEASTERN BORDER WITH VENEZUELA, TO MEET WITH SECURITY, ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, AND CIVIL SOCIETY LEADERS. ARAUCA-BASED COLAR 18TH BRIGADE (BDE) COMMANDER COLONEL GUSTAVO MATAMOROS TOLD EMBOFFS THAT VIOLENCE IN ARAUCA IS ESCALATING AND WILL LIKELY LEAD TO FULL-SCALE WARFARE BETWEEN THE FARC AND ELN (ACTING IN CONCERT) AND THE AUC, AS EACH FACTION COMPETES FOR STRATEGIC SUPPLY CORRIDORS, LAND, EXTORTED OIL ROYALTIES, AND CONTROL OF THE DRUG TRADE (AN ESTIMATED 10,000 HECTARES OF COCA) (REFS A,B,C).

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ECONOMY: "PARO ARMADO," OXY, AND ONGOING RECESSION

5. (C) ON OCTOBER 16, THE FARC ENDED THE 19-DAY "PARO ARMADO" ("ARMED BLOCKADE"), WHICH BLOCKED OVERLAND TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN ARAUCA AND ARAUQUITA TO PROTEST THE ARRIVAL OF PARAMILITARIES IN THE REGION. ARAUCA'S CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ESTIMATED THAT THE "PARO ARMADO" COST THE DEPARTMENT ALMOST USD 20 MILLION, CAUSED FOOD SHORTAGES, AND NEARLY CRIPPLED THE LOCAL TAXI AND BUS INDUSTRY (REF A). CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT CARLOS

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GAONA SAID THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE "PARO ARMADO" WAS EXACERBATED BY ARAUCA'S WEAK ECONOMY AND OXY'S DECISION TO HALT PRODUCTION FROM OCTOBER 8-16. OVER 90% OF ARAUCA DEPARTMENT'S BUDGET IS FUNDED BY OIL ROYALTIES AND, DURING THE PREVIOUS STOPPAGE FROM FEBRUARY TO JULY, THE DEPARTMENT AND CITY LOST AN ESTIMATED USD 50 MILLION (REF D).

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CIVIL SOCIETY: IMPOVERISHED AND FEARFUL

7. (C) ARAUCA'S BISHOP MONSIGNOR ARCADIO BERNAL STATED THAT THE POPULACE FEELS HOPELESS AND CAUGHT BETWEEN THE CROSSHAIRS OF THE GUERRILLAS AND PARAMILITARIES. BERNAL LAMENTED THAT THE CHURCH DID NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO ASSIST THE RAPIDLY INCREASING NUMBERS OF POOR, HOMELESS, AND DESTITUTE, WHO ARE FALLING THROUGH THE CRACKS OF ARAUCA'S WEAK SOCIAL WELFARE, HEALTH, AND EDUCATION SYSTEMS. BERNAL SAID THE ARCHDIOCESE OPERATES THREE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS: A HOUSE THAT FEEDS AND SHELTERS 60 HOMELESS ORPHANS, WHICH HAS BEEN OPERATING FOR 3 YEARS; A ONE-YEAR OLD "PEACE AND COEXISTENCE COMMITTEES" PROGRAM THAT TEACHES CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES AND

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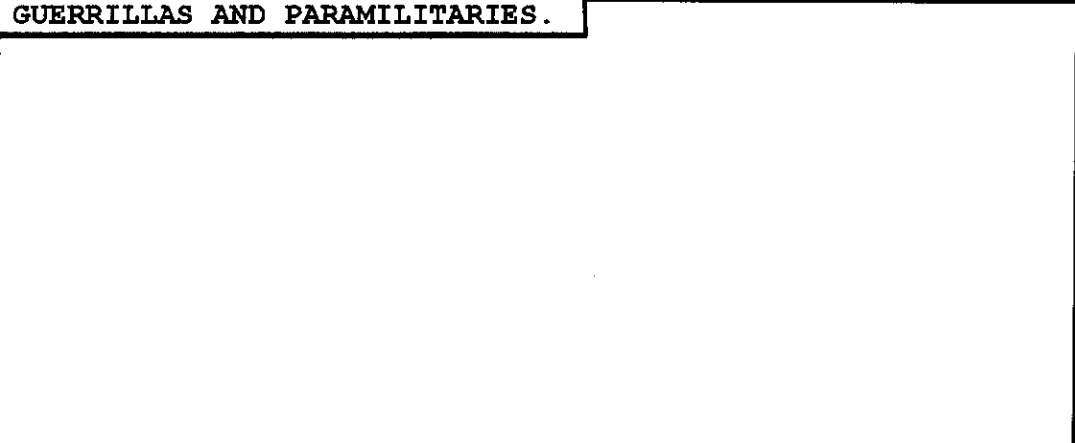
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CONFLICT MANAGEMENT SKILLS; AND, A SEVEN-YEAR OLD HIGH
SCHOOL TUTORING PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES INSTRUCTION TO OVER
400 CAMPESINOS OF ALL AGES IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. SOCIAL
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ACTIVISM IS LIMITED, BUT APPROXIMATELY 300 ARAUCANS
PARTICIPATED IN A PEACEFUL MARCH ON OCTOBER 18 TO CALL
THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S ATTENTION TO CONDITIONS IN
ARAUCA. VEHICLES IN THE PROCESSION DISPLAYED A "FOR
SALE" SIGN, SIGNIFYING THAT THE COMMUNITY HAS HAD ENOUGH
AND ARE READY TO LEAVE, UNLESS THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
PROVIDES RELIEF.

COMMENT

8. (C) ARAUCA WILL LIKELY FACE GREATER SECURITY AND
ECONOMIC CHALLENGES AS CONFLICT ESCALATES BETWEEN THE
GUERRILLAS AND PARAMILITARIES.



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